

ORIGINAL

USWEST

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Melissa Newman
Vice President - Regulatory Affairs

February 9, 2000

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street, SW, TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 99-272

Dear Ms. Salas:

Yesterday, February 8, 2000, US WEST made filings in all its remaining states to begin the process of receiving state support for its entry into long-distance. As you know, U S WEST has had long-distance applications pending in Arizona, Nebraska, and Colorado, and last Friday we made an initial filing in the State of Washington. Yesterday, we made filings in all the remaining states. These filings are intended to set the stage for initiating collaborative workshop process in the rest of the states, and demonstrate U S WEST's commitment to enter 271 expeditiously.

Attached please find the press release U S WEST issued yesterday announcing this intent.

In accordance with Section 1.1206(b)(1) of the Commission's rules, an original and one copy of this letter and attachment are being filed with your office for inclusion in the public record of this proceeding.

Acknowledgment and date of receipt of this submission are requested. A duplicate of this letter is attached for this purpose.

Sincerely,



Melissa Newman

Attachments

cc: Margaret Egler
Henry Thaggert
Bob Atkinson
Dorothy Attwood
Jordan Goldstein
Kyle Dixon
Sarah Whitesell
Rebecca Beynon

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February 8, 2000

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U S WEST BEGINS INNOVATIVE PROCESS TO SPEED LONG-DISTANCE APPROVAL ACROSS ITS REGION

— Plans Include Collaborative 'Workshops' and Region-Wide Independent Third-Party OSS Testing to Meet 14-Point Checklist —

DENVER, February 8, 2000 —U S WEST today makes filings to begin the process of securing long-distance entry support from all remaining state commissions in its 14-state region. The process, combined with the industry's first region-wide independent third-party testing of U S WEST's Operational and Support Systems (OSS), could dramatically speed up U S WEST's entry into long distance.

"We are moving forward aggressively to offer consumers a complete, integrated bundle of communications and information services," said Solomon Trujillo, U S WEST chairman, president and CEO. "Today we lead in the deployment of new, integrated products and services, including high-speed broadband services. Now we are initiating an innovative and collaborative process that could speed approval for U S WEST's entry into the long-distance market."

U S WEST has pending long-distance applications in Arizona, Nebraska and Colorado. The company's filings over the past two weeks – in Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming – are intended to establish a process by which state commissions may consider U S WEST's satisfaction of the law's 14-point checklist. Once the third-party OSS tests are successfully passed, each state can then be in position to quickly support U S WEST's long-distance applications with the FCC

The filings also provide new information on the extent of local service competition in U S WEST's states, where conservative estimates show that competitors are providing local service to more than 1.2 million customer lines:

- Competitors have easy access to more than 13 million customer lines – or more than 78% of U S WEST's customers. Sixty competitors have located their equipment at more than 1,400 sites in 365 U S WEST central offices;

- More than 630,000 telephone numbers have been “ported” to a competitor – each line ported represents the conversion of an existing line from U S WEST to a competitor;
- 103 competitors have resold almost 432,000 U S WEST lines;
- U S WEST processed more than 330,000 competitors’ service requests in 1999 alone and provided competitors with more than 454,000 interconnection trunks.

U S WEST’s filings recognize the substantial progress made by the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC), a body comprised of commissioners from U S WEST’s 14 states. The ROC, with the participation of commissions in 13 of the 14 states, has recently released its first draft of a Master Test Plan that serves as the roadmap for a comprehensive test of U S WEST’s OSS. The plan is being developed in a collaborative process with participation from competitive local exchange carriers, U S WEST, and state commission staff persons. Arizona, the only non-ROC participant, is conducting its own OSS test and has its own Master Test Plan virtually complete. Both the ROC process and Arizona have also made substantial progress in developing performance measures that will be used during and after the third party tests to track how well U S WEST is providing service to its wholesale customers.

“We’re pleased with the process and the progress,” said Mark Roellig, U S WEST executive vice president public policy, human resources and law. “The first draft of a master OSS test plan has been circulated for comment, and we could see completed testing by late summer. While a one-size-fits-all approach doesn’t meet consumers’ needs in most areas, region-wide independent testing of our OSS systems and the development of performance measurements makes sense because it will speed up the regulatory approval process.”

In several states, the company is proposing collaborative workshops to consider checklist satisfaction rather than evidentiary hearings. “Over the past two and one-half years, the FCC and state commissions have come to use collaborative workshops, not adversarial hearings, as the most effective means by which to process long-distance applications,” said Roellig. U S WEST has already begun using collaborative workshops in Arizona with much success. The process U S WEST is proposing would allow broad-based industry participation in a series of workshops considering each aspect of the Telecommunications Act’s 14-point checklist.

About U S WEST

U S WEST (NYSE: USW) provides a full range of telecommunications and other services — including wireline, wireless PCS, data networking, directory and information services — to more than 25 million customers nationally and in 14 Western and Midwestern states. More information about U S WEST may be found on the Internet at www.uswest.com.

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